

## New York Tribune.

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## Bushwhacking the President.

Some of the Democratic leaders in Congress seem bent on making life miserable for President Wilson. They are accepting his leadership on the tariff question not so much because they relish it as because they fear to break with him on a programme which has the support of the great mass of the party. But on other issues they are willing to annoy and embarrass him.

The joint resolution which Senator Overman is said to be ready to introduce, suspending for four years President Taft's executive order of October 15, 1912, would, if passed, compel Mr. Wilson either to rebuke the Democratic majority in Congress in a veto message or to abandon convictions which he has held and expressed for a lifetime. Mr. Taft covered the fourth class postmasters in the states south of the Ohio River and west of the Mississippi River into the classified service, and Democratic politicians from those sections want to have the order suspended until most of those offices can be filled by Democrats appointed on the old basis of pull and party service.

The Democratic House in the last Congress lacked the nerve to vote for a suspension of the Taft order. It was known that Mr. Taft would veto any act restoring the spoils system in appointments to fourth class postoffices. It should be just as well known that Mr. Wilson will veto such an act. Yet the spoilsmen in Congress seem determined to pick a quarrel with him on that question.

Congress also showed itself exceedingly inconsiderate of the President's comfort when it saddled on the 'sundry civil appropriation bill the rider which tries to suspend the Sherman anti-trust law so far as combinations of laborers and agricultural producers are concerned. The President cannot approve such discriminatory class legislation without greatly straining his conscience and damaging his reputation. Yet the bushwhackers will not spare him. They want to force him out in the open and compel him, if possible, to do things which they believe will offend the Western and Southern officeholders and the members of two large classes of producers seeking special exemption from prosecution under the Sherman law.

That is unkind and unbrotherly. Yet the bushwhackers may in the end put it in the power of the President to demonstrate his firmness, his independence and his devotion to high ideals by vetoing the miserable subterfuges which they are planning to thrust on his attention.

## Justice Cohalan's Duty.

Justice Cohalan owes it to the public to demand an investigation of the charges made against him by a contractor named Connolly and printed in "The New York World." Mr. Cohalan's denial falls short of being all that is called for when so delicate a thing as the reputation of the bench is involved. He may personally feel, and rightly, too, that the charges against him and his accuser are both beneath contempt. But his judicial position requires that the whole story be made perfectly plain, so that the public may see for itself that the accusation is false, if it is false.

The denial made by the justice does not do this. It does not meet the allegation that the justice shared in the profits upon work done for the city by Connolly and obtained through political influence. The justice's explanation, that he accepted the note "only as an admission by Connolly that statements he had previously made were unfounded," is not sufficiently definite.

Fortunately, there are several ways in which the justice can seek a vindication of his reputation by an impartial tribunal, and the incompleteness of his reply to the charges hitherto leads to the hope that he is preparing to meet them with thoroughness in proceedings where any one who may attack the character of a member of the bench without warrant may be made to pay the penalty for his offence.

## Last Stages of the Friedmann Episode.

The request to the Health Commissioner by Dr. Joseph J. O'Connell, the Health Officer of the Port, that the use of the Friedmann tuberculosis cure be suspended pending a further study of its workings voices a distrust of that cure which has now become general. The originator of the turtle germ treatment never did anything which inspired confidence in his character as a scientist or a practitioner influenced by disinterested or humanitarian motives. On the contrary, he did much to prove that he conceived himself to be engaged in a purely commercial enterprise.

The public was not prepossessed toward his cure by his personality and attitude. It hoped against hope that some great good for the world might be accomplished through what it deemed a rather unworthy instrument. That hope is now pretty effectually dashed. It looks as if the turtle germ cure would cut no greater figure here than was cut by its on-a-business-basis-only inventor.

## The "Insurgent" Lower Court.

A rift within the lute of the judicial establishment of the District of Columbia threatens to give new scope and variety to the practice of unsettling, re-settling and often again unsettling things through the process of legal appeals. The District Supreme Court is annoyed at the modifications of sentence made by the District Court of Appeals in the Gompers, Morrison and Mitchell contempt cases and has petitioned the Supreme Court of the United States to step in and overrule the action of the superior local tribunal.

Washington dispatches say that it is an innovation in the history of jurisprudence for a lower court to ask directly for a reversal of the decision of a next higher court. Yet on the principle that the longer the churn of litigation turns the creamier will be the quality of justice turned out, why shouldn't the courts themselves get into the game? Any lower tribunals whose feelings were hurt could then find

out from an outside third party whether the chastisement administered by the next higher reviewing body was deservedly or undeservedly inflicted.

If the lower courts take to "insurgency" of this sort and employ counsel to present their cases, hard times will come again no more for the lawyers and life will be "one grand, sweet song" about the temples of justice.

## The Jarring Allies.

It is not at all surprising that friction has arisen among the Balkan allies. With the exception of Montenegro and Serbia, which are of one blood, they have hated each other from time immemorial. The Tartars of Bulgaria, the Slavs of Serbia and the Neo-Hellenes of Greece have nothing in common, nor have the descendants of Roman penal colonies in Rumania sympathy with any of them. Their one bond of union was hatred of the common oppressor of all, the Turk.

"When Greece joined Greece, then was the tug of war." So when the various Balkan peoples were united, there was trouble for Ottoman. But after the Greeks of old had thrashed the Persians, they quarrelled among themselves and brought disaster upon Hellas. So now, having beaten the Turks, the Balkan allies find their own old animosities reviving.

## Lobsters in the West.

Announcement is made that Secretary Redfield has approved a plan whereby the lobster of the Eastern States is to be transplanted to the Pacific Coast and acclimatized and naturalized there. This has been tried before, but hasn't worked. The authorities expect the lobster to prove more adaptable under this new plan and are looking confidently for success in the experiment, which they think will confer a great boon on the western United States.

The lobster may prove adaptable, but what of the Pacific Coast and adjacent territory? With the lobster goes the lobster palace, the gilded hall of revelry which has contributed to the effete of the effete East. Can the West stand that? It is a grave responsibility the federal authorities are assuming in undertaking to plant in the bosom of the simple, serene, pastoral coast states this plaything of the plutocrats. It is to be hoped they have considered their course long and thoroughly.

## The Suppression of "Indoor Tropics."

There is good sense very forcibly put in the circular issued by Dr. J. N. Eager, of the United States Public Health and Marine Hospital Service. We all know that fresh air and a moderate indoor heat are best for us. But how many Americans live up to their knowledge?

"What sensible person would send his children to the tropics to school?" is one query put by Dr. Eager. Yet that is just what you are doing if the schoolroom is kept at 80 or 85 degrees—a by no means uncommon temperature. The same criticism holds for American homes, too. There is no need of emulating the raw discomfort of an English house. But a temperature of 70 degrees is perfectly comfortable and it avoids the debilitating effect of the extreme heat.

All this is still timely in a wintry spring. And Dr. Eager goes on to apply his good sense to summer as well. The variations of our American climate he considers "wonderfully beautiful." The bracing air of the fall is our best season, of course. But our summer, he asserts, "if spent sanely, without the aid of alcoholic beverages," runs fall a close second. If we take our seasons "straight" we get benefit from them all, is his point.

"Fresh air and the suppression of indoor tropics" are the two items summing up this altogether excellent advice.

## Fancy and Fact at Nicaragua.

It may be an open question whether an inter-oceanic canal ever will or should be constructed at Nicaragua. A dozen years ago that route seemed to have some decided advantages over that at Panama. It still has the advantage of less distance between our two coasts, but it is doubtful if that is sufficient to counterbalance the fact that the Panama Canal is now an accomplished fact.

But there can be no question as to the ownership, possession and management of such a canal. If ever it should be constructed. It must be "an American canal, under American control." That is fundamental and axiomatic.

## Salary Standardization.

It is a pertinent suggestion which comes from the Bureau of Municipal Research that the subject of standardization of salaries of city employees be made one of the issues in the approaching municipal campaign. The present Board of Estimate and Apportionment has been working, under difficulties, for many months to gain material on which a comprehensive and just report and recommendations on the subject could be made. In the course of this investigation discrepancies almost ludicrous have come to light. Of two men doing the same kind of work, one receives \$300 a year and the other \$1800; of two others doing similar work one receives \$2,400 a year, the second \$600.

Complaints legislatures have had a trick of "equalizing" salaries in certain departments of the city and county government by making the lowest equal to the highest. That is one kind of salary standardization. It won't better the public service nor lower the tax rate. The city's payroll is around \$85,000,000 a year. Undoubtedly some of the employees receive wages too small, just as certainly as many of them receive wages entirely too large for the work they do. The new administration, whatever its political complexion, should make the wages fit the work—and see that everybody works.

## The Magic of the Telephone.

Just how modern is the essential and ubiquitous telephone—now connecting a half-million houses and offices in New York City—there is a casual line in "Pinafore" which serves to indicate. When the kindly chorus is condoling with Ralph Rackstraw on his separation from his Josephine it chants these words to picture the terror of his lot:

No telephone connects with his dungeon cell. The line falls flat to-day. But "Pinafore" was produced for the first time in 1878, and in 1876 the Bell patents for the first practical telephone were issued. Thus when the words were written they related to a new and startling invention that was the talk of the day, and the Gilbertian line was really a gay, topical jest.

It is a safe guess, however, that very few of the people who laughed at "Pinafore" in the 70's foresaw what the telephone would really prove to be. The years of the telephone are few. But already it has transformed business method and social intercourse. The railroads, the fast trains, the telegraph,

wireless, the automobile all helped to make the nineteenth century a century of acceleration.

The telephone worked more real magic than all the rest together. The discovery of astral bodies would hardly have done more to multiply human effectiveness and enable us to snap our fingers at space.

When the state Senate meets again the least it can do is to pass a "We mourn our loss" resolution.

American militants are considerate, anyhow. The first suffrage bomb in this country was placed in a Maryland field, entirely uninhabited.

"Waldo hopes for the police in new blood he has injected." Maybe the removal of some of the old blood by the "enemy," Mr. Whitman, will help a little, too.

Miss Grace Strachan is a candidate for next to the highest office under the Board of Education. Let's see, isn't she the person for whom a subscription was being taken up in violation of the bylaws of the Board of Education?

## AS I WAS SAYING

"Indigestion is the failure to adjust a square meal to a round stomach," and if something is missing from "The Editor's Drawer," where we discovered this treasure and planted our flag at once and colonized it, we shall be firm, though not cruel. We shall offer "compensation elsewhere." Listen, Mr. Editor! Have you never wondered why the farmyard gate emits those exceedingly disagreeable sounds from underneath? Round pig in a square hole.

Over yonder at the University of Durham they have invented a new degree, B. C., Bachelor of Commerce. Another example of how Mrs. Englishman scares away women from the temples of learning! However, it is perhaps as well in this case. Though fully covered by insurance, the buildings at Durham are very ancient and it would be slow work erecting others as historical.

Which reminds us. The Lady of the Period is violent, phrenetic, Amazonian, turkeyophilous, not to say corybantic and bacchanalian, with leanings toward the Trilbyistic and gee-whizzified, and this wretched land of ours is simply overrun with her. The only nice, quiet, ladylike word for whom is "Waw!" But do we meet that sort of lady? Do we meet anybody who has ever met that sort of lady? Ah, no! And don't you call us a moseback, either, or we shall hit you in such a spot as you thought not.

We have just broken ground for our June joke, and work will be rushed day and night. It is a dainty conceit, this joke, and so original! Naturally, we are compelled to build in a few brides, orange blossoms and wedding bells; the blueprints demand them; but our main idea is something positively novel and startling.

Chorus of cheers from our busy competitors: "We've got it! Eugenic marriage!" Thanks! At last we feel that we are one of us.

Mr. George Grave has been remarking that "the comedian is to be pitied," and we guess it must be so. A little nonsense now and then, but not perennially and by the shovel. Said that wise and witty theologian, Dr. T. T. Munger: "If you pay a man to dance all day he will pay you to let him keep books at night."

'Tis now the "grave old senior"—poor, doddering, moribund ruin that he is!—looks forward to Commencement and the end of the world. However, he means to sell his life dearly, so is writing an oration.

This is, of course, very sly and vindictive on the senior's part, though we doubt if he dares repeat a scene at which we anciently had the honor to be present. Prepare to shudder!

In his solemn Oxford gown and with his Oxford mortarboard in his hand, Mr. Ernest Lindell Crandall swept across the Commencement stage, smiling blandly. Before him a brilliant audience. Behind him the robed president and professors and venerable trustees. A moment of breathless expectation. Then said Mr. Ernest Lindell Crandall: "Good morning! Have you used Pear's Soap?"

Gracious Peterkins, what a shock! Wonder the whole institution didn't sink straight through to China!

Still smiling, Mr. Crandall paused. Seconds passed. Minutes they seemed. After which the young gentleman plunged into a "very discourse." "This is the advertisement that stares us in the face every day we look! Do you read the advertisements in the daily papers? You ought to!" And it was into the lap of Crandall, '91, that the Prize for Best Appearance on the Commencement Stage descended in a blaze of glory.

The Gibson Man on the cover of "The Ladies' World" tells all about it inside. Thirty-five, and still a bachelor. This is because he has "counted the risks." Elizabeth was too placid, Margaret too exacting. Helen "believed in team work." Alice and Margaret were extravagant. And so the pale, pale Gibson Man adheres to his cocoa-colored background and cannot be dragged to the altar.

Ah, well! We have gazed long at the Gibson Man on the cover, and are more than ever convinced that the be-a-sister-to-you benediction is not one that bears repeating. After the ninth or tenth performance it gets to sound almost hostile. Nevertheless, we do not think the Gibson Man should abandon hope just yet. Our advice to him is: Adopt a more nutritive diet, brush your hair, drop that grim, heavy-villainous frown, and—yes, wash your face.

R. L. H.

## THE STONEPILE UP TO DATE.

From The Springfield Republican.  
Judge Bruce, of the Malden district court, has provided a penalty for boys brought before him for throwing stones. He hands them over to the probation officer, who makes them throw stones until they get dead tired of the business. The remedy has been tried upon a couple of youths who seem to have been cured.

## NEW MARKET FOR FIELD GLASSES.

From The Houston Daily Post.  
A great many of the "forward looking men" are showing symptoms of eyestrain, owing to the tremendous distance of the postoffices from the point of observation.

## NOT IN A FERMENT.

From The Charleston News and Courier.  
When it is stated that Japan received Mr. Bryan's note in the spirit in which it was sent, the reference, of course, is to grape juice.

## NEW YORK FROM THE SUBURBS.

We hope the New York yachtsmen will have an easier time kicking Sir Thomas than they had accepting the challenge.—Charleston News and Courier.  
New York is to have the largest church in the world. New York needs it.—Portland Oregonian.  
Recent developments indicate that some of New York's police inspectors will not live hereafter in the style to which they have become accustomed.—Topeka State Journal.  
The perfect babies in the New York contest bear such tags as Behncker, Skeete, Korn, Motto, Edlowitz, Palas, Stavisky and other proud old American family names.—Omaha Bee.

Mayor Gaynor says he does not know a man who has added an inch to himself by getting to be Governor. But a crotch is better than an inch, isn't it?—Louisville Courier-Journal.

## THE STANDPATTER.



## THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate

## THE VANDALS AND ST. JOHN'S

## To Destroy the Famous Old Chapel Would Be an "Outrage."

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
Sir: I beg to call your attention to the proposed destruction of St. John's Chapel, in Varick street, and request you to use the influence of your paper to preserve the building. It is the best of the three old churches, architecturally, remaining in New York.

The present cause assigned for its destruction is the construction of a subway under Varick street and the widening of the street above. Both of these things can be obtained without destroying the building, but as it has been many times reported in the past that Trinity Corporation is desirous of selling the property, the only sure way to preserve the building is to have the city purchase it. Its usefulness to the city would be either to use it as a museum, possibly of city history, or as a public auditorium, such as the old Federal Hall, in Boston, or the new Franklin Hall, in Philadelphia. I want to say that the destruction of this building for utilitarian purposes of doubtful advantage seems to me just such an outrage as would be perpetrated if Leonardo da Vinci's famous painting of "The Last Supper" were destroyed because the monastery wanted a door cut through the wall on which it rests, to give more convenient access between a couple of rooms. AYMAR EMBURY, 74.  
New York, May 24, 1913.

## A JAPANESE VIEW

## The California Law Is Discussed in Calm and Sensible Fashion.

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
Sir: I beg to state in your honorable paper, which I have read assiduously for some years and which has treated my nation in a very considerate manner, that our imperial government has made a great mistake in this California trouble. This is not an international question; it is just and only something concerning only the authorities of California and some of the Japanese residing there and to be settled by the courts of that state. I believe the best they can do now is to let the things as they are, and this they can do so the more, as the answer of President Wilson has been very courteous and full of cordiality. Suppose they insist on having another treaty, by which neither Americans can be landowners in Japan nor Japanese in this country? The result should be a loss for my countrymen, who now can buy land in many states.

Another point: What is the use of going to those states where we are not wanted, if not by the whole Caucasian population, by a big fraction of it, and just the fraction that has the votes? We can perfectly well live without settling in California and the rest of the West.

I have read in the papers these days that there are 200,000 Japanese abroad and only 8,000 in this country, and of these about 25,000 in California. It is quite easy to find work and land for these 25,000 in Korea, in Manchuria and in South America. The Brazilian government is now attracting the Japanese immigration. Mr. Chirimoza has already brought there thousands of colonists, provided with free lands by the Rio de Janeiro government, who pays their passage.

Contrary to what many people believe here, our emigration is small, as you see, and we can find plenty of places for it. And I must add that it has been forced down on the Pacific Coast by the agents of the steamship companies. Now that we are beginning to have transportation facilities to other countries, the flux to the United States may disappear shortly.

In Yokohama Mr. Lapinza has published a most interesting pamphlet about this matter.

My point of view, and that of many Japanese, is this: We are not wanted on the Pacific Coast, and we can well pass without it. So let us cut the cable there, and the political and commercial relations between the United States and Japan shall not be disturbed. L. KAGADA.  
New York, May 23, 1913.

## "GEE" AND "HAW"

## Much Better than Right and Left or Port and Starboard, Says a Reader.

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
Sir: Nothing that Mr. Daniels as Secretary of the Navy, has ordered the terms "port" and "starboard" shall be abolished and that the terms "right" and "left" shall be used in future in the giving of orders to helmsmen in the navy, would you not urge that gentleman to reconsider his decision and to substitute the words "gee" and "haw" as being words with which he is probably much more familiar and as more in keeping with the general asinine performance of the present administration.

H. R. LAWFORD.  
New York, May 24, 1913.

## THE JOB ETERNAL

## A Plea for the Civil Service Man Who Likes It.

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
Sir: Adverse criticism in editorials on the Griffin-Walker bills prompts me to request the privilege of your columns for a short statement about these bills.  
Chapter 1354 of the New York charter provides that when an employee seems, or is, undesirable to the administrative official the employee shall be granted a hearing. Surely the dullest intellect can conceive of the spirit in which an accuser will listen to the person who is accused and who, perhaps through political, economic or social reasons, is opposed to the accuser's cause. This provision is a travesty on justice when one considers that the plaintiff is judge, with unlimited discretion in the matter at issue.

One of the Griffin-Walker bills provides for a hearing at which the accused may be represented by counsel and that the witnesses shall be sworn and minutes of the proceedings kept. The other bill provides for an extension of the preferred list from one to two years—that is, when employees are to be laid off for lack of work they shall be placed on a preferred list for reappointment. In laying off the inverse order of their appointment is to be executed. The last man hired is to be the first to be laid off. This procedure is generally adopted in banks and institutions having a seniority system.

It has been stated that the bills as now before his excellency Governor Sulzer will entail endless litigation. This is not true. The Griffin-Walker bills intend that the accused shall be given a bona fide trial, and, of course, if the person is found guilty a discharge will be granted. The place to stop the admission into the civil service of undesirable people of any kind is at the point of entrance, there the care must be of the most vigilant sort.

At the present time the civil service requirements are very rigid, the competition for the positions which are open for people of special or usual training is very keen, and perhaps the best possible method of obtaining public servants. It is not fair to those who have qualified by many years of preparation for positions in the very many diversified branches of government to expect them to submit to humiliation at the hands, or at the instigation, of politicians and even fanatics who, perhaps, are elected to public office and who perpetrate their oftentimes immature plans on the individuals and departments working for continuity of service to the people.

The Police Department, with all its

frailties, has in it some of the very best of the citizens of New York; the Amateur Athletic Union has found in the ranks of the giants on the force the world's champions in different lines, and I dare say that the very best in a great many other lines are to be found right in the midst of all the sudden traditions brought on by such as Richard Croker, who openly confessed that he was in politics for all he could get out of it, during the Lexow investigation. Those traditions and conditions the civil service employee is trying to shake off through the establishment of fair and impartial proceedings, so that he may do his duty honestly, and if questioned by the head of this or that administration one may be assured of a real hearing on the merits of the case only.

KARL LOHMANN.  
Vice-President Finance Council S. New York Civil Service Society.  
New York, May 14, 1913.

## A CALL FOR FRESH AIR

Where Can One Get Away from Tobacco Smoke?

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The New York Tribune's attack upon the nuisance of dying cigars, and indirectly upon live tobacco smoke in the air, and the review thereof by your correspondents will no doubt be appreciated by the few million people who have been trying for years upon years to pass even a single day without being obliged to inhale tobacco smoke, which fills the air everywhere, on piazzas of hotels, crowded streets, fresh air at their resorts, ocean steamers, tops of Fifth Avenue buses, elevators and halls of buildings, streetcar platforms, hotel lounges and dining rooms, etc. As the habit is on the increase and people cannot find a place where they can be free from smoke for one full day, and as anything but natural fresh air lowers one's health and makes him susceptible to disease, some power must take the lead and put an end to public smoking, so that people in general may follow all physicians' instructions to inhale fresh air day and night. Nicotine is a poison, and people should not have their air poisoned in the least by victims of the smoking habit.

Now, the question is, What only law can I am convinced that the only law can most nearly put an end to public smoking. No other force exists in the air, on streets, in some hotels, in railroad stations and many other places prohibiting smoking, but men pay no attention to them.

However, in the subway there is literally almost no smoking. Why? Because there is a sign showing it is a penalty to smoke there. The penalty signs with reference to public expectorating are effective. Why? Because the law is behind them. Everywhere that those "spitting" signs exists should also be penalty non-smoking signs. Then people could exclaim joyfully: "Oh, how nice it is to feel well, to feel full of health, to be given an appetite by inhaling delicious air without a speck of nauseating nicotine in it!"

HYGIENIC.  
New York, May 25, 1913.

## AS VIEWED FROM AFAR.

From The Houston Post.  
One of the certainties of the year is that the forthcoming direct primary law that New York is to have will not appreciably diminish the political meanness current there, will not raise the standard of public officials and will not stop the yellow press from proclaiming New York as the wickedest town in the world. And there will be more democracy and hypocrisy than ever before.

## "DRINK HEARTY."

From The Philadelphia Inquirer.  
A Western preacher says he would rather drink red ink than beer. Probably a qualified teetotaler, but every one to his own taste, as the woman said when she kissed the